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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Identical letters dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the Declaration of Principles of the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA), dated 20 September 1997, which was subsequently adopted by the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Declaration of Principles made by the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA), adopted on 20 September 1997 by the Islamic State of Afghanistan

With the aim of institutionalizing the political life of the nation in conformity with the sacred tenets of Islam, in accordance with the requirements of the modern time,

Recalling the glorious struggle for freedom of the people of Afghanistan, especially the recent two decades of resistance against foreign domination,

With the goal of realizing equal political, social and cultural rights for all ethnic groups and segments of the Afghan society,

For the purpose of securing a comprehensive and lasting peace and consolidating the unity of Afghanistan,

In order to establish a political system based on the free will of the people of Afghanistan as the source of national sovereignty and in which the aspiration of the people will determine the future political destiny of the country; to secure the rights and basic freedoms of the people and their participation in the political life of the country, and to establish a political system based upon the principles of democracy and pluralism,

The United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan declares the following principles as the framework for the future political system in Afghanistan:

1. The principle of Islam:

The Islamic tenets and teachings are the guidelines of supreme and value in compliance with which the future political system, the constitution and other laws, executive and judiciary practices in Afghanistan shall be founded. The economic, social and cultural rehabilitation, development and progress shall be fulfilled accordingly.

2. The principle of independence and international cooperation:

(a) Adherence to self-reliance and non-independence as a right, to secure the freedom and independence of Afghanistan in adopting internal and foreign policies;

(b) Governance of State affairs, setting national goals and initiation of projects of economic and political development without outside influence; international relations shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants and instruments;

(c) Expansion of the multilateral relations of Afghanistan with its neighbours and that of economic cooperation, including transit trade, gas and petroleum.

3. The principles of democracy and pluralism:

For the purposes of realizing the will of the people and their right to self-determination, creating a responsible Government, preventing a monopoly of power and administrative corruption, electing representatives to the electoral bodies, ensuring free and fair periodical election of the leadership; the principles of democracy and pluralism shall constitute the mainspring of the future political system to be formed in Afghanistan.

4. The principles of election and delegation of authority to local administrations:

(a) The central representative Government, to be equitably accommodating to all ethnic groups and segments of Afghan society, shall function constitutionally;

(b) The delegation of authority to local administrations, as a principle, shall be incorporated in the constitution. The constitution will stipulate a just formation of major administrative units. The local administrations and those in charge, including the provincial councils, shall all be elective. However, jurisdiction of the higher administrations shall be determined by the law.

5. The principle of human rights:

UINFSA, inspired by the tenets of Islam and the sacred Koranic prescriptions, firmly believes in the dignity of the human being and the observation of human rights, including the rights of women and their rights to education and active participation in the social life of the country, in harmony with the essence of the international human rights instruments.

UINFSA remains open to adherence of other political parties recognizing the principles set out herein. UINFSA calls upon all Afghans in Afghanistan and abroad to respond positively to this appeal, with the intention of making the cause of national unity in Afghanistan a reality.

UINFSA, while seeking to ensure a lasting peace in the country, in line with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, would spare no efforts to bring about the circumstances under which a Grand National Assembly (Loya Jirgah) of the rightful representatives of the people of Afghanistan would be called to adopt a constitution.